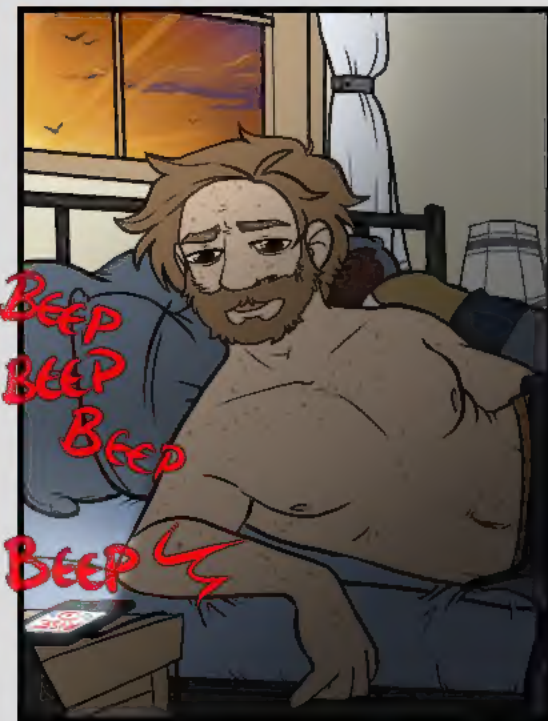




It was not 'Fine'

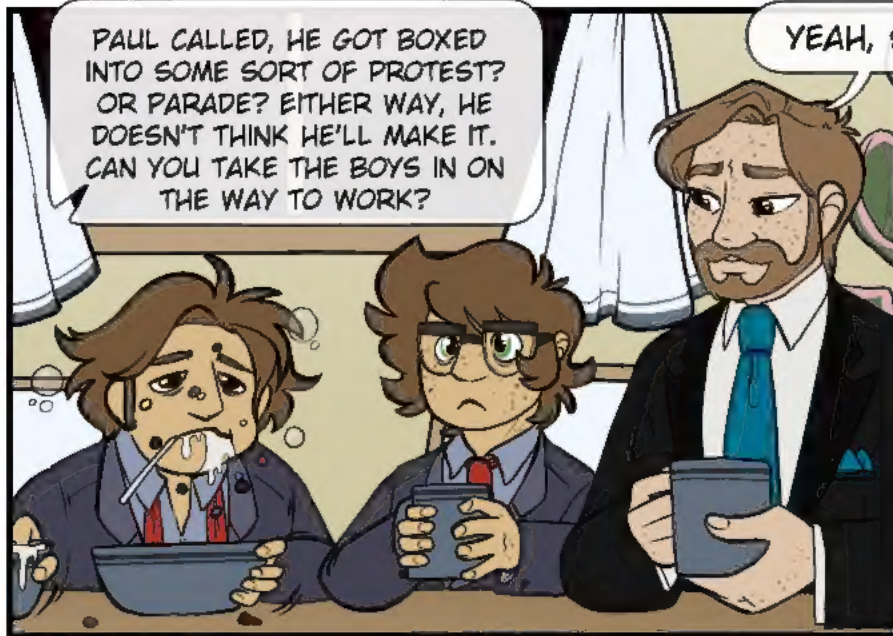


CHAPTER 4











I've been
CHOSEN



DON'T-
YEAH, WHATEVER.
JUST BUCKLE UP.



HEY, DOES LILY NEED
A RIDE TOO, OR IS
SHE STILL OUT?

HM?



OH, NO. NOT
JUST YET.
A COUPLE MORE
DAYS, WE THINK.

WELL, GLAD SHE'S
ON THE MEND AT
LEAST.



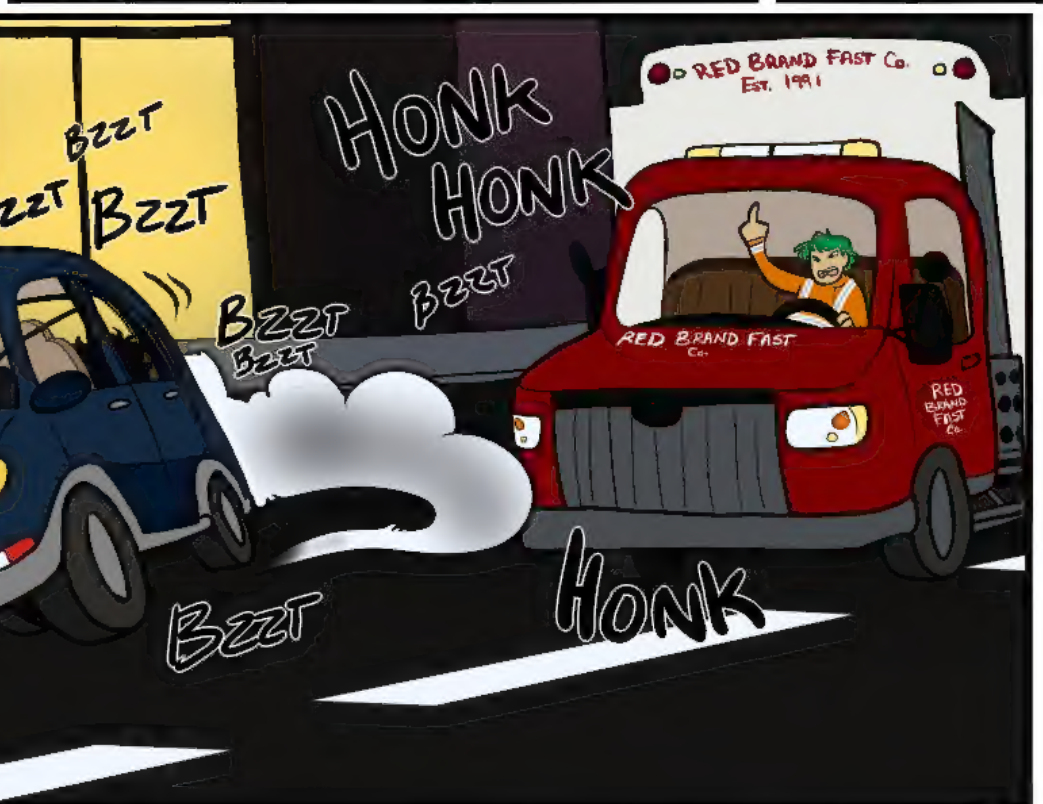
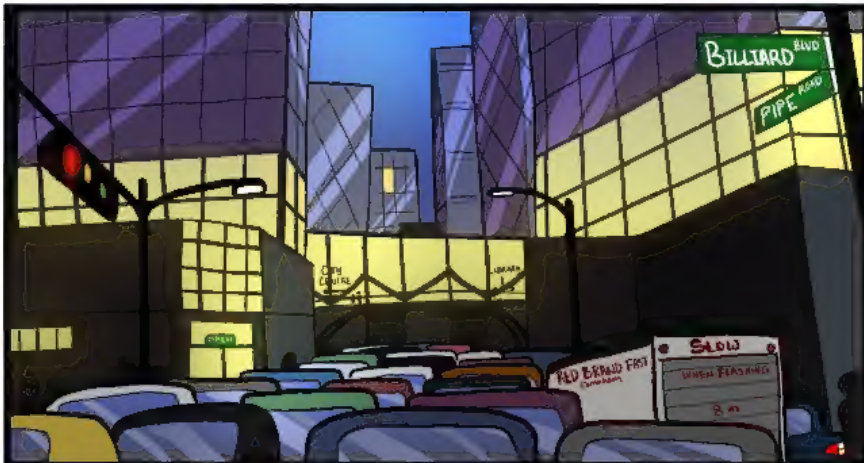
AND YOU WOULDN'T BE
RUN SO RAGGED IF SOMEONE
CAME HOME ONCE IN A WH-
ANYWAYS.

I MISS
LILY.

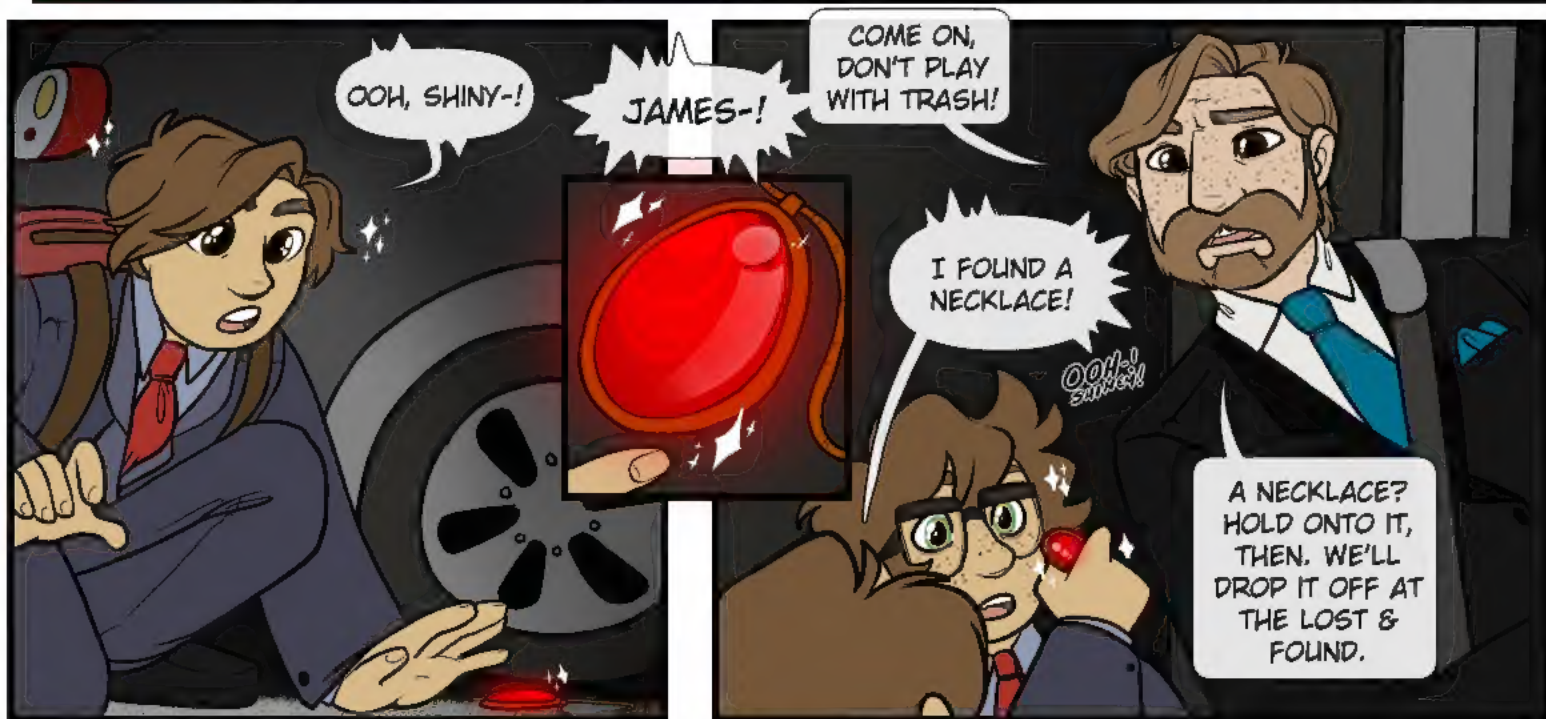
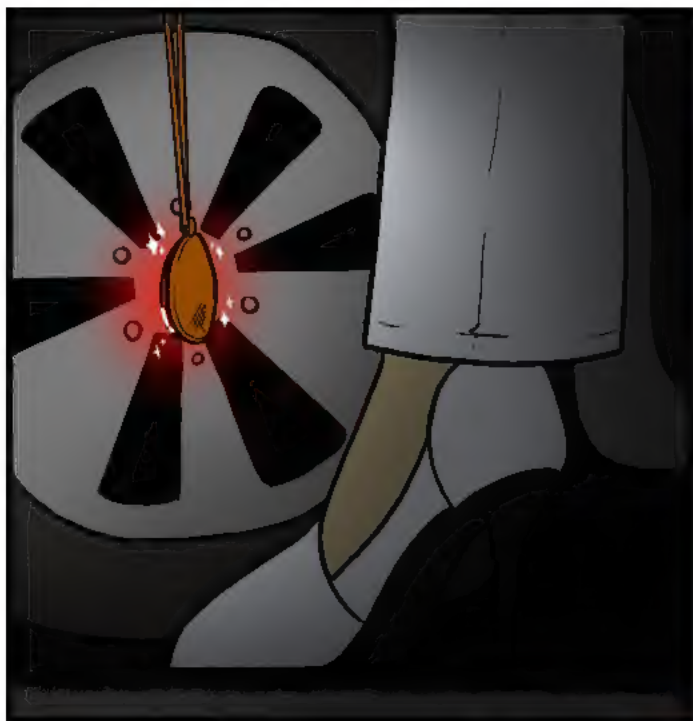
I KNOW BUD.
JAMES, SEATBELT.



WHAT IN THE
WORLD IS
GOING ON?!

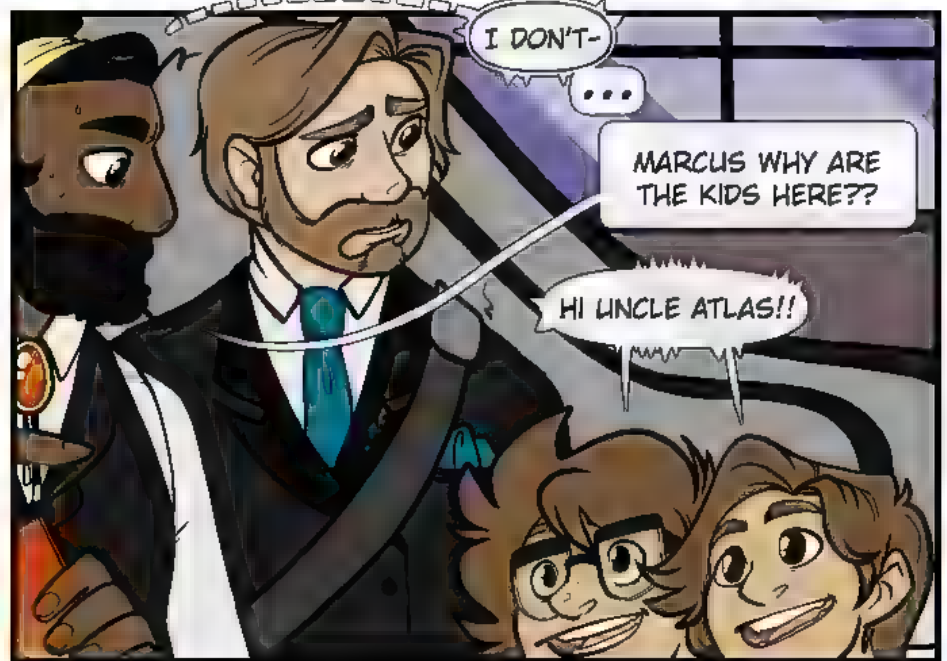








MARCUS?!



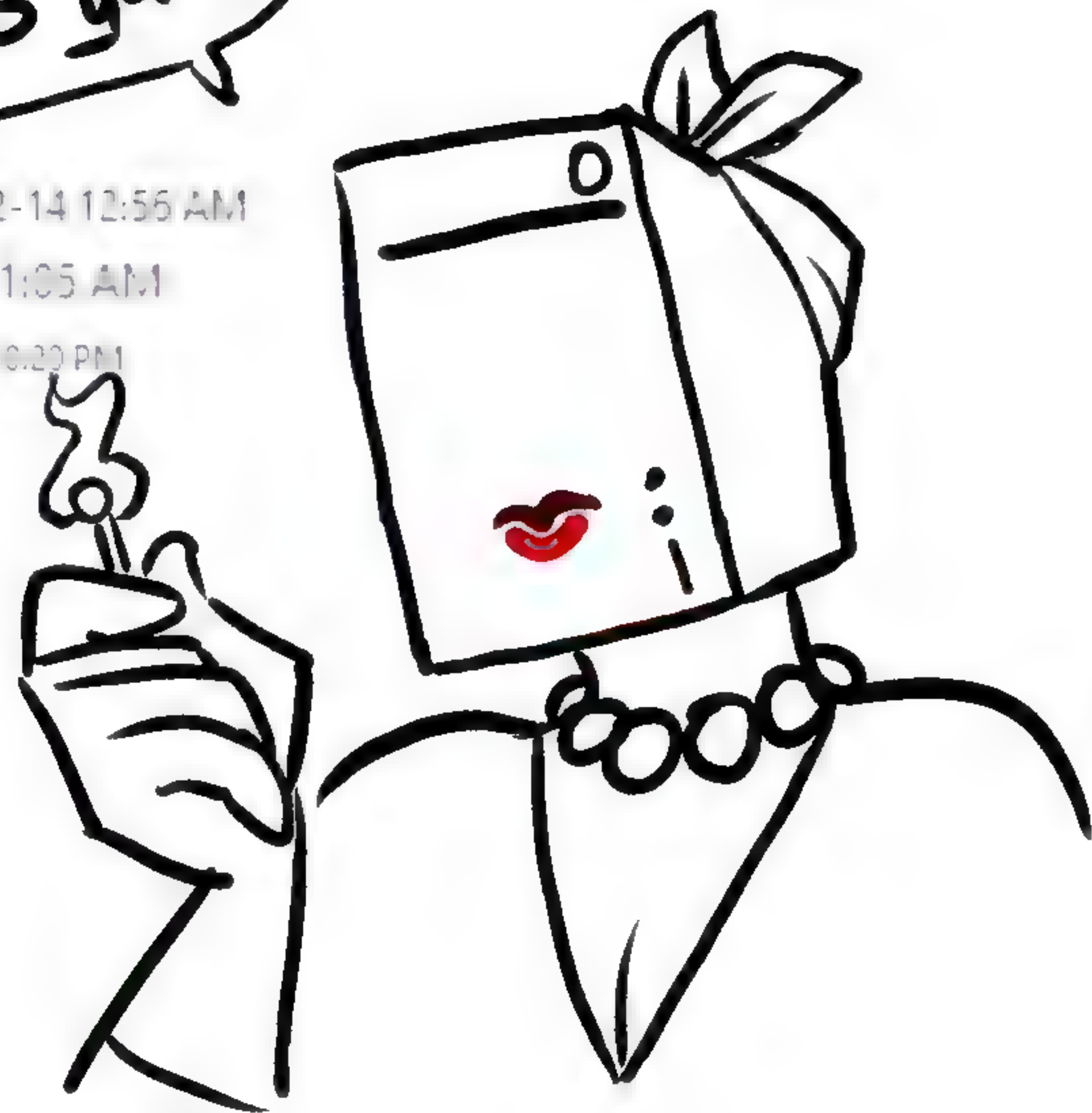


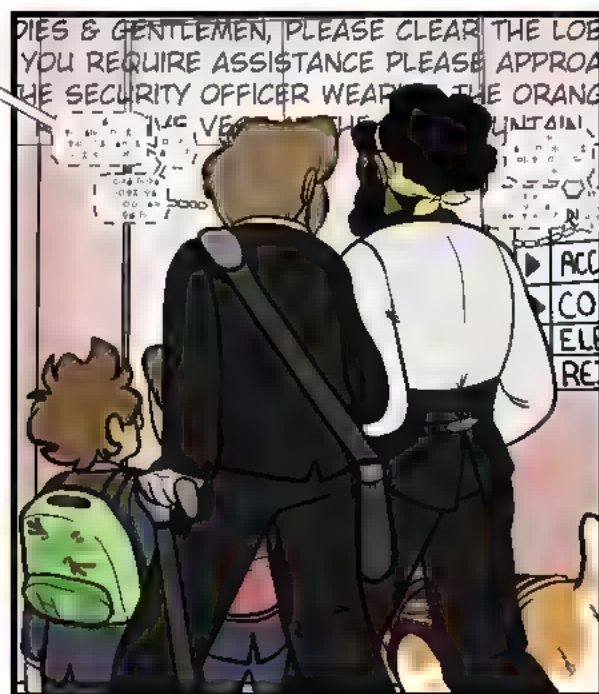
(Do ya?)

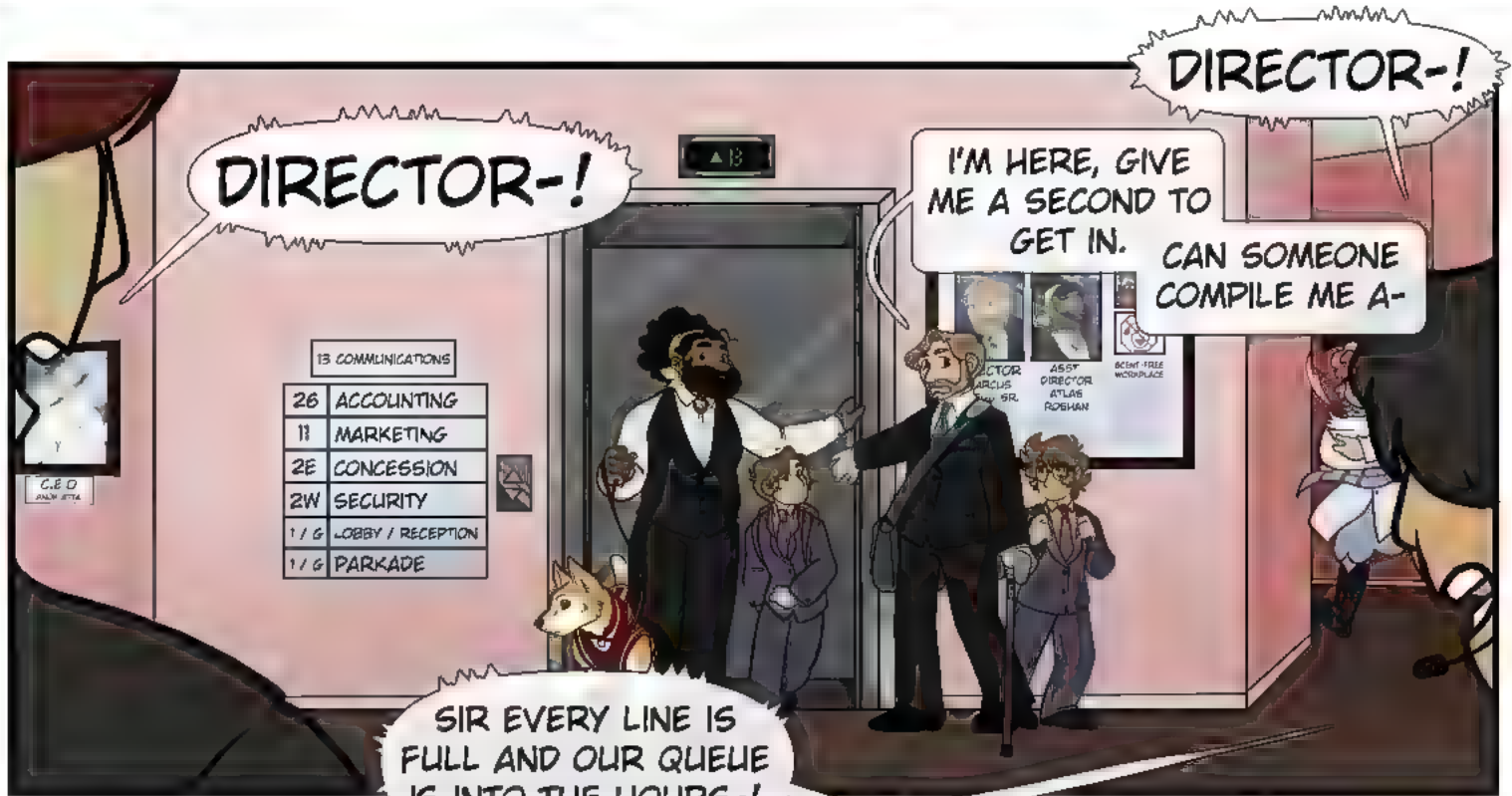
2024-02-14 12:56 AM

2024-01-18 1:05 AM

2023-11-08 10:20 PM









1. MLEM means
"I LOVE YOU" IN GECKO
BUT NOT SKINK!

DONT SAY MLEM to A Skink
DONT DO IT.

TRUST ME.

I NEED EVERYONE TO STOP.

ATLAS, COORDINATE ME WITH THAT RUNDOWN, AS FAST AS YOU CAN, PLEASE.

OK

GARCIA, GET ME THE INTERNS, AS MANY AS YOU CAN.

YES SIR-!

FRANK, PUT THE GENERAL ON MY PRIVATE LINE, INFORM HIM I'VE JUST ARRIVED, AND WILL BE WITH HIM ONCE I HAVE MY RUNDOWN.

DARLEEN CAN YOU GET ME THE PAPER WORK FOR THOSE INTERNS, PLEASE?

ON IT-!

CAN DO-!

THE REST OF YOU PLEASE START FIELDING CALLS. NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

STANDARD POST-INCIDENT PROCEDURE, BUT WE NEED TO DIG THE CLIENTS OUT FROM UNDER MEDIA TRYING TO GET A SCOOP.

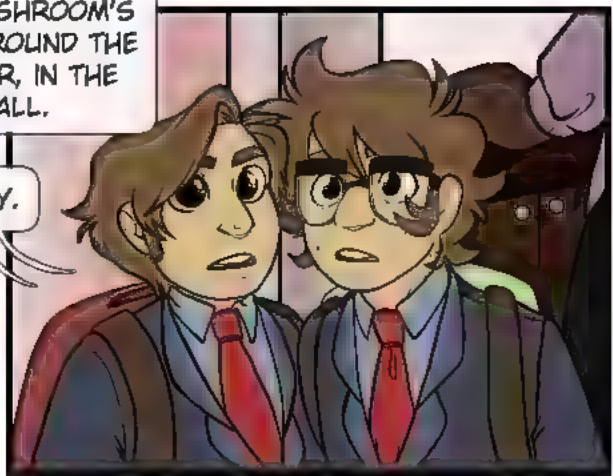
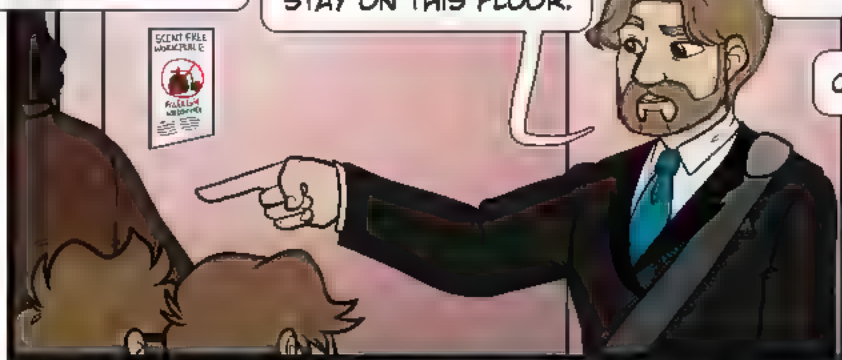
SO COOL-!

JAMES, JR,
CAN YOU WAIT
IN THE CONFERENCE
ROOM FOR ME?

KEEP QUIET,
DON'T USE THE
STAIR OR ELEVATOR.
STAY ON THIS FLOOR.

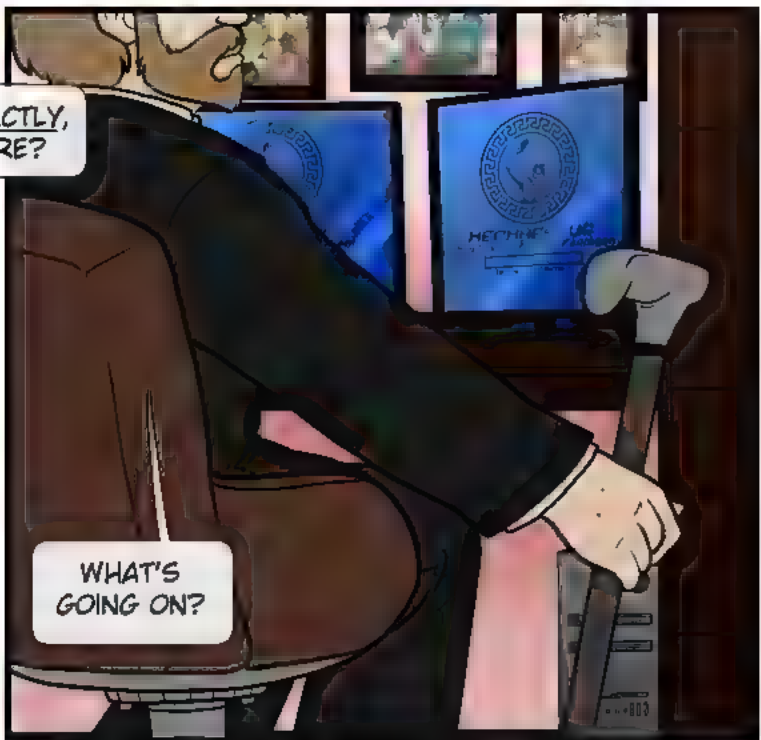
THE WASHROOM'S
STILL AROUND THE
CORNER, IN THE
HALL.

OKAY.



ALRIGHT.

NOW WHAT, EXACTLY,
HAPPENED HERE?



WHAT'S
GOING ON?



...
IT HAPPENED
AGAIN.

PUBLICLY,
THIS TIME.





SO IT STARTED
AT 06:20 EST.

THE MAN BELIEVED
TO BE LT. DARREL
GORDON REPORTED
FOR DUTY:

OTHERWISE HEALTHY,
SAID HIS DINNER WAS
'SITTING HEAVILY BUT
NOT TOO BADLY', AND
'MAYBE FEWER CHILIS
NEXT TIME'.

HE'D GIVE AMPLE
WARNING IF THIS
CHANGED.

HE WAS CLEARED
FOR WORK AT 06:24.

07:02
EXCUSED HIMSELF,
SHOWING SIGNS OF
FEVER & INDIGESTION.

07:05
DISCOVERED.

07:06
ATTACKED THE ONE
WHO DISCOVERED HIM.
NO LIFE-THREATENING
INJURIES REPORTED.

07:10
APPREHENDED.

NOW IN CUSTODY;
HE'S BEEN...
NON-COOPERATIVE.

HE WILL NOT ANSWER
ANY QUESTIONS, LEAST
OF ALL WHERE THE REAL
LT. GORDON IS.



THIS KEEPS
HAPPENING.

THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME IT'S BEEN
OUR GUY,
SPECIFICALLY,
& IT'S THE FIRST
TIME SOMEONE'S
GOTTEN HURT.

THE REPORTS ARE
STACKING UP.

HOW LONG UNTIL
SOMEONE IS KILLED?

WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING, &
WHAT IS GOING
ON, AND HOW DO
WE STOP IT?

I DON'T
KNOW.



I DON'T KNOW, MAN.
NO ONE DOES. THE PEOPLE
WHO DO TALK CLAIM THEY'RE
INNOCENT. THAT THEY HAD NO
IDEA, & AREN'T IMPOSTERS.

PEOPLE DON'T JUST
TURN INTO MONSTERS,
ATLAS.

NOT 'JUST CUZ'.

YOU CAN'T-
DON'T-



DON'T JUST... GROW A
TAIL, WITH NO WARNING.

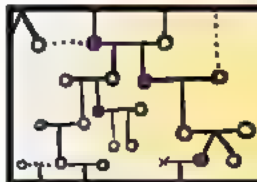
...

RIGHT?

I MEAN... HOW
WOULD THEY
KNOW, THOUGH.

ATLAS-

**I'M NOT, LIKE, SUGGESTING 'MAGIC' OR
SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT...**



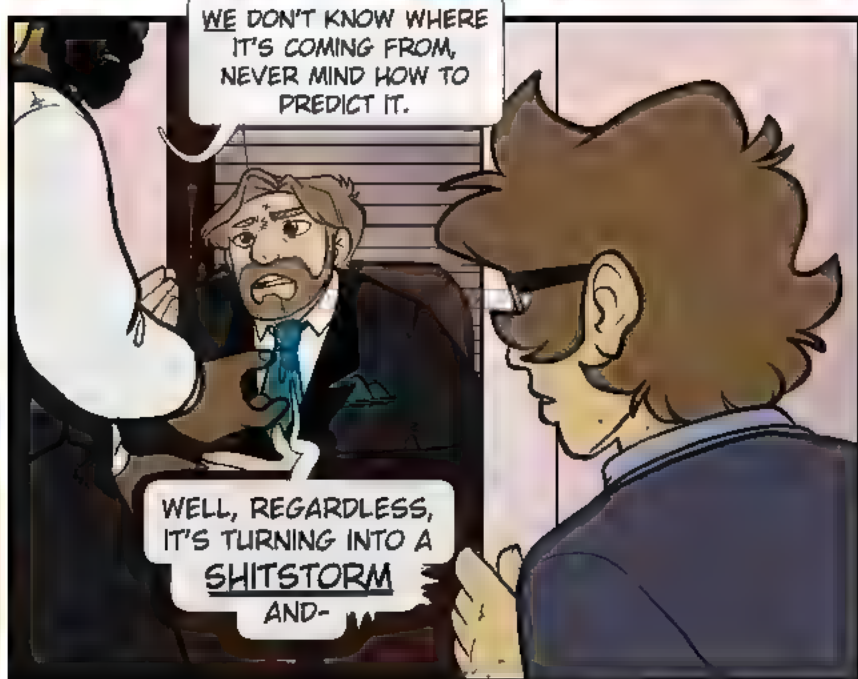
**BUT IF IT WAS
GENETIC,
WE'D SEE IT IN
FAMILY LINES.**



**DISEASE WOULD HAVE
CLEAR & TRACABLE
CONTACTS & EXPOSURES.**

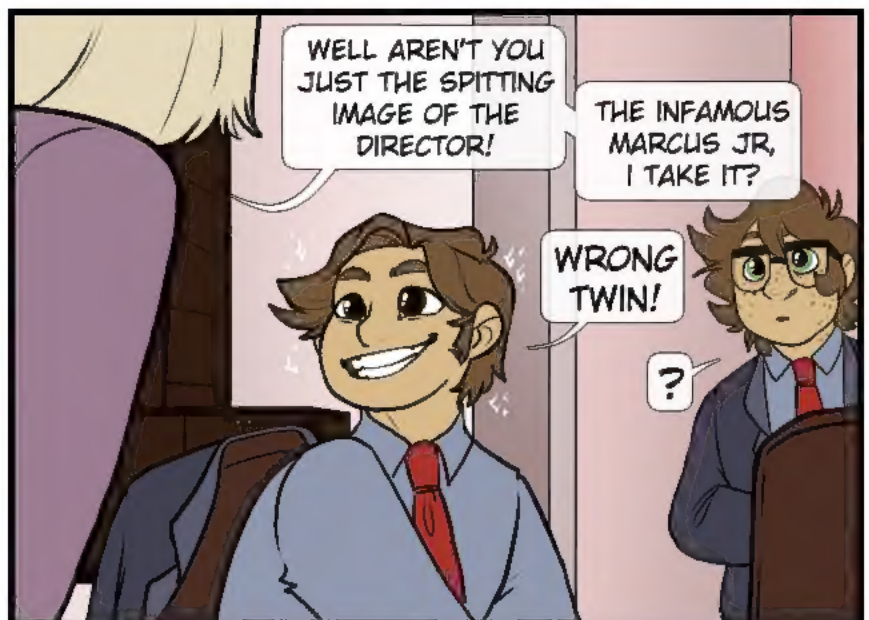
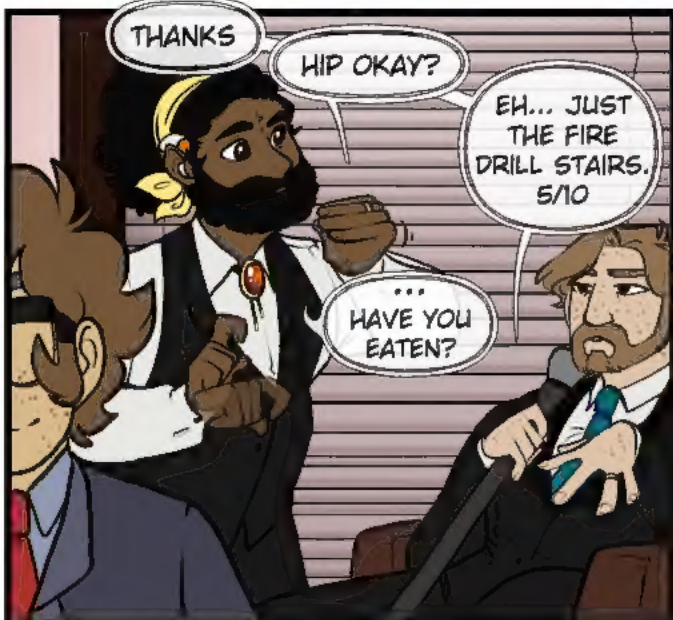
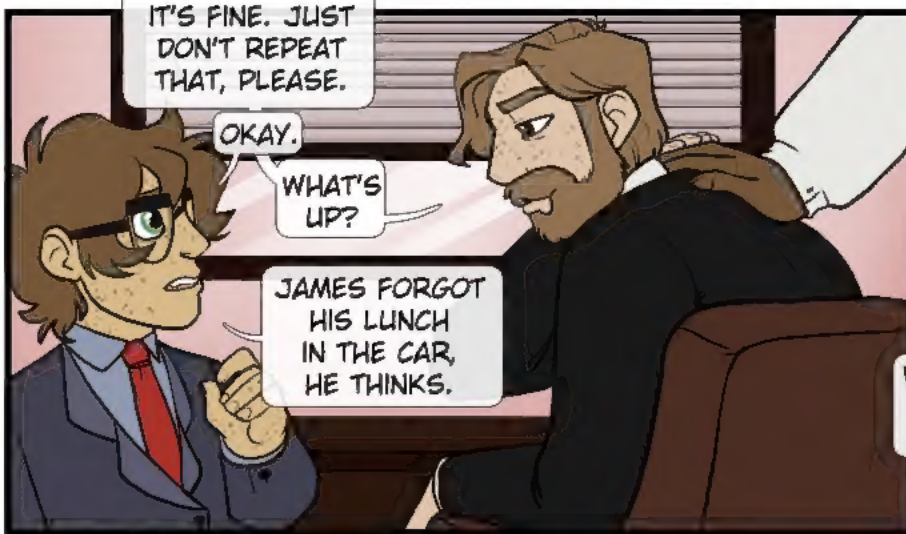


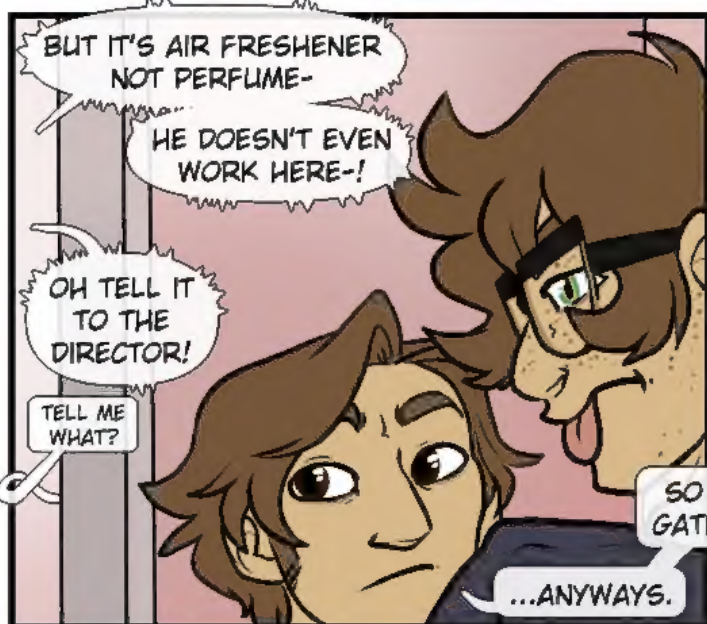
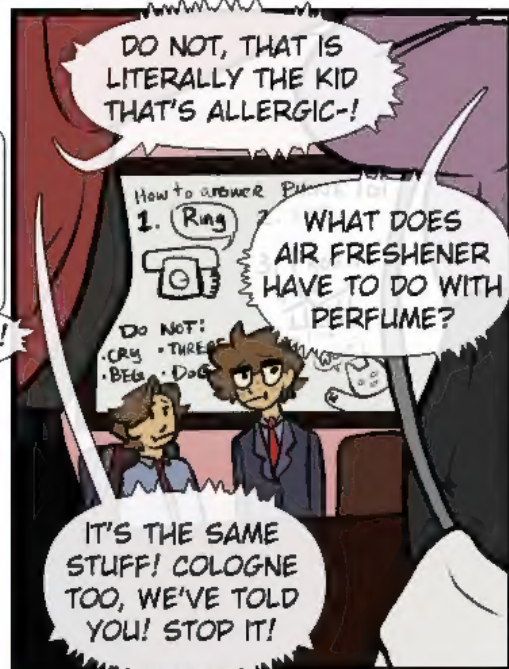
**CONTAMINATED FOOD
& DRINK WOULD BE
MORE LOCALIZED.**



WE DON'T KNOW WHERE
IT'S COMING FROM,
NEVER MIND HOW TO
PREDICT IT.

WELL, REGARDLESS,
IT'S TURNING INTO A
SHITSTORM
AND-





BEGONE
FOUL BEAST

